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SMITH, JOHN D.

7-03 - SMITH, JOHN D.

Russia Claims He Was Spy for CIA

Quincy Man Defects - - Reds

By ARTHUR STRATTON

The Soviet Union Tuesday named a 41-year-old Quincy man as a spy for the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency who had defected and become a Russian citizen living in Moscow.

"That's not my boy," sobbed the distraught mother of John Discoe Smith, educated in the Quincy schools and at Thayer Academy in Braintree, and who formerly lived at 72 Cranch St., Quincy.

Other relatives and friends of the former U.S. State Department communications clerk were equally incredulous, and they found comfort in a State Department statement Tuesday night that set forth:

"We have no information that this man, or a John Smith, is in the Soviet Union, is a Soviet citizen, or is a defector from the United States."

However, the State Department stressed this did not mean Smith might not have defected, adding it possessed no information on his present whereabouts.

The State Department also denied Smith ever worked for the CIA.

A Soviet newspaper published an article by Smith in which he said he had defected to the Soviet Union because while working as a CIA agent he reached a conviction the United States was preparing "a new world catastrophe."

A spokesman for the U.S. embassy at Moscow commented: "I never heard of this John Smith. The only John Smith I know of was subverted by Pocahontas."

Mrs. Thomas Kantola, 66, of 24 Elliot St., Braintree, the mother of John amid tears: "I get letters Discoe Smith, reported from him all the time. The last one was mailed in Rome within a week. It said that he was traveling in Europe.

"That's not my boy. He works for the government, but I can't say more."

PASSPORT IN 1960

The State Department said it issued a passport to John Discoe Smith on April 13, 1960 at Miami, and that it possessed no record of a renewal on that passport's expiration date of April, 1963.

Members of Smith's family said he had a wife and one child living with his wife's folks somewhere in Florida. The State Department said Smith married Mary Frances London, a foreign service secretary in 1953, adding that she resigned from the department in 1957.

Smith's father, also John Smith, was a Norwood resident. The family said he died about two years ago.

For many years, while he attended the Quincy schools, Thayer Academy and worked at what then was the Fore River Shipyard and served in the Navy, Smith lived with his mother and his step-father, retired Quincy police Patrolman Thomas Kantola, at 72 Cranch St., Quincy. Later Smith's mother and Kantola separated.

"I haven't seen the boy for about 20 years," said Kantola, who now is superintendent of the Ritz Apartments at 3 Cottage Ave. in Quincy. "He was a nice boy. I can't believe it if it's true. If he did do such a thing he must have gone cuckoo."

'DEFECTION IN REVERSE'

Kantola advanced the possibility it might be "a defection in reverse."

The step-father added he had heard his mother had received a letter from him a week ago, postmarked Rome, and that the missive told of him traveling in Europe.

During World War II said the step-father, Smith served in the Navy, spending much of the time in Washington.

Officials of Thayer Academy, which was mentioned in the Soviet announcement of Smith's

defection, said a John D. Smith attended summer school there in 1947 under a war veteran status, continued at evening school during the fall of 1947 and the winter of 1948.

The State Department said a John D. Smith of Quincy attended George Washington University in Washington, D.C., from the fall of 1948 until June, 1950, and then was suspended "for scholastic reasons." The department added Smith was employed by them from Oct. 29, 1950, to Dec. 29, 1959, resigning on the latter date "for personal reasons."

NO RECORDS

State Department Press Secretary Robert McCloskey said: "As far as we know it was the beginning and the end of his federal employment. There are no records from any other federal agencies or departments.

"I have no reason to think he was ever employed by the CIA.

"He started as a communication clerk at \$2,850 annually, and resigned at \$5,585.

"As part of his State Department duties as communications clerk he was assigned to Pretoria, South Africa, in January of 1951; assigned to New Delhi, India, in May, 1954; to Vienna in 1959.

"He returned to the United States on Dec. 27, 1959, and resigned two days later. On April

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EXAMINER

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FORMER CIA AGENT
DEFECTS TO RUSSIA

MOSCOW — An American who identified himself as a former U. S. intelligence agent said today he defected to the Soviet Union because Washington is preparing "a new world catastrophe."

The man identified himself as John Smith, a native of Quincy, Mass. He said he once worked for the Central Intelligence Agency in India, but is now a Soviet citizen and lives in Moscow.

Smith told his story in the Soviet newspaper, Literary Gazette, due on the newsstands Wednesday. It was summarized today by the official news agency, Tass.